

1 2 JAN 2009



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

David M. Carter  
Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP  
Suite 225  
445 Broad Hollow Road  
Melville NY 11747

In re Application of  
Plant, David James  
Application No.: 10/797,756  
Filed: March 10, 2004  
Attorney Docket No.: 1315-22  
For: FLEXIBLE ENERGY ABSORBING  
MATERIAL AND METHODS OF  
MANUFACTURE THEREOF:

DECISION ON PETITION UNDER 37  
CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND UNDER 37 CFR  
1.55(c)

This is a decision on the petitions under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.55(c), filed September 15, 2008, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of a prior-filed PCT application, and under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) for the priority to prior-filed foreign applications, as set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petitions are **GRANTED**.

The present nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of the prior-filed PCT application and priority to the foreign applications is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.55(a)(1). Therefore, this is a proper petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 1.55(c).

**As to the benefit claim under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3):**

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question

whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) in that (1) a reference to the prior-filed PCT application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as provided by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed PCT application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

**As to the benefit claim under 37 CFR 1.55(c):**

A petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority requires:

- (1) The nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date must be filed on or after November 29, 2000;
- (2) the claim submitted with the petition must identify the prior foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by the application number, country, and the filing date, **and be included either in an oath or declaration (37 CFR 1.63(c)(2)) or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(b)(6))**;
- (3) the surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
- (4) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. (The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.); and
- (5) the above-identified nonprovisional application must be filed within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign application.

The above-identified pending nonprovisional application was filed on March 10, 2004, which is after November 29, 2000, and the intermediate PCT application was filed within 12 months of 13 September 2001, which is the earliest filing date of the foreign application to which benefit is claimed. An Application Data Sheet filed on January 29, 2007 also identifies the foreign application for which priority is claimed by application number, country and filing date. The surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been paid. Lastly, petitioner has provided an

adequate statement of unintentional delay.

All requirements being met, the petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is granted.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed PCT and foreign applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

*The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.55(c) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and 35 § U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) and 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.*

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Anthony Smith at (571) 272-3298. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 1717 for consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications.



Boris Milef  
PCT Legal Examiner  
Office of PCT Legal Administration

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt